

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 220553Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6680

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EXDIS

NEA-ASST. SECY ATHERTON

FOR H-ASST. SECY MCCLOSKEY

PM-DIRECTOR, VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PM, US, MASS

SUBJECT: GEARING SALE AND THE BYRD AMENDMENT

1. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT TAKING THE LEAD IN
BREAKING LOOSE A NUMBER OF MILITARY SALES ITEMS IN WHICH
THE GOP IS INTERESTED. WE HAVE INFORMED PAK MILITARY THAT
EQUIPMENT NOTED IN STATE 177037 HAS CLEARED EXECUTIVE BRANCH
AND, WHERE NECESSARY, HAS NOW BEEN SENT TO THE HILL. THE
GOP APPRECIATES PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, YET THERE IS ONE
ISSUE I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION WHICH IS TROUBLESOME
TO THE PAKS AND WHICH TO THEM, EXEMPLIFIES SOME OF THE
DIFFICULTIES WE STILL FACE IN OUR EVOLVING MILITARY
SALES RELATIONSHIP.

2. BY SEPARATE CABLE TO NEA, I AM ASKING THE DEPARTMENT'S
SUPPORT IN ARRANGING FOR A PAKISTAN NAVY TEAM TO VISIT
THE STATES AND INSPECT THE TWO GEARING CLASS DESTROYERS
THAT HAVE BEEN EARMARKED FOR SALE TO PAKISTAN. OUR
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PAK NAVY
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HAS BEEN CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. THEIR OWN

PROCUREMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES ARE, COMPARED TO THE OTHER SERVICES, RELATIVELY EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE, AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN COOPERATING WHENEVER POSSIBLE WITH THE US NAVY. PORT VISITS TO PAKISTAN, USE OF THE KARACHI SHIPYARD, PN/USN JOINT EXERCISES, PN HOSTING OF THE MIDLINK 76 PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND PN PARTICIPATION IN MIDLINK EXERCISES ARE ALL ILLUSTRATIVE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.

3. OF THE THREE PAKISTANI SERVICES, IT IS EASIEST TO JUSTIFY MILITARY SALES TO THE NAVY, ON BOTH POLITICAL AND MILITARY GROUNDS. THE PN IS WOEFULLY EQUIPPED AND EVEN INCLUDING EQUIPMENT THEY HAVE REQUESTED FROM US, PN WOULD POSE NO OFFENSIVE THREAT TO INDIA. IF ANYTHING, THE DISPARITY BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAK NAVAL POWER IS GROWING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THEREFORE ANY CONCERNS WE MAY FEEL ABOUT OUR MILITARY SALES PROGRAM UPSETTING THE PRESENT MILITARY EQUATION ON THE SUB-CONTINENT WOULD NOT APPLY TO SALES TO THE PN. OUR SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PN THEREFORE PROVIDES US WITH MANY BENEFITS AND AT SAME TIME ENTAILS NO REAL POLITICAL COSTS IN TERMS OF OUR INTERESTS IN THE AREA.

4. IN PAK NAVY EYES, THE SALE OF THE GEARING CLASS DESTROYERS IS AT THE HEART OF ITS SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. PROGRESS ON THE GEARINGS IS THE YARDSTICK BY WHICH THAT RELATIONSHIP IS MEASURED. THIS IS WHY THE PN THINKS IT SO IMPORTANT THAT A TEAM BE ABLE TO VISIT THE STATES AND LOOK AT THE DESTROYERS AND WHY I HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP THE VISIT.

5. YET WE STILL OBVIOUSLY FACE ONE LAST MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO THE GEARING SALE- THE NEED FOR BYRD AMENDMENT APPROVAL. I REALIZE THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. I UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE THE BYRD AMENDMENT WAS ENACTED, ALTHOUGH MORE THAN 50 CASES HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE HILL, CONGRESS HAS YET TO PASS ITS FIRST BILL ENABLING THE SALE OF SHIPS FALLING UNDER ITS PROVISIONS. I AM CERTAIN THIS HAS CAUSED

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STRAINS AND DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER NATIONS. I KNOW THAT IF THE BILL ALLOWING THE GEARING SALE TO PAKISTAN LANGUISHES ON THE HILL FOR A LENGTHY PERIOD, NOT ONLY WILL THIS SPECIFIC SALE BE THREATENED, BUT OUR ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PAK NAVY, INCLUDING ITS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE US NAVY AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN CENTO EXERCISES, WILL BE ERODED AS WELL.

6. ALTHOUGH YOU ARE MUCH MORE FAMILIAR THAN I WITH THE BUREAUCRATIC AND JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE LOGJAM ON THE HILL, IT IS MY OWN PERSONAL VIEW THAT CONGRESS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY MAJOR POLICY QUALMS OVER APPROVING THE SALE OF THESE TWO 30-YEAR OLD DESTROYERS TO PAKISTAN. THE ISSUE THEREFORE SEEMS TO BE FINDING A SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY WHICH WOULD BREAK THROUGH THE BOTTLENECK ON THE HILL IN BYRD AMENDMENT CASES. ALTHOUGH MANY COUNTRIES ARE AFFECTED, I CAN STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IN PAKISTAN'S CASE IF YOU WERE ABLE TO WORK OUT SUCH A STRATEGY, I ASSUME IN COOPERATION WITH DOD, THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL TO OUR GOALS IN THIS AREA, GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE GOP, AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT OUR INTEREST IS HELPING PAKISTAN MEET ITS LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS IS SINCERE. WHATEVER HELP YOU CAN GIVE IN THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW, MILITARY SALES, DESTROYERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA07487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760282-0067
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760733/aaaabcra.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS <MCM 20040603 CORRECTED>; STADIS, EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040603
Subject: GEARING SALE AND THE BYRD AMENDMENT
TAGS: MASS, PK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006